

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 6, 18, 19, and 22 – 33 are pending in the application.

With regard to the objection to the specification, although the paragraph referenced on page 13 merely contains a reference to Applicants' corresponding priority application, as indicated previously, Applicants hereby indicate their willingness to delete this paragraph if required by the Examiner.

The examiner has rejected, among others, claims 1, 22, 23 and 24 under 35 USC 103(a) over Bonforte. In addition, the Examiner has indicated that claims 6, 25, 28 and 31 would be allowable. Applicants appreciate this indication of allowability. However, in view of the following comments, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims in the application should now be allowable.

The independent claims 1, 22, 23 and 24 of the present application are directed to a cutting blade for a motor-driven implement, wherein the blade sections 6 of the cutting blade have a double trapezoidal shape. The Examiner has asserted that Bonforte discloses such a double trapezoidal configuration, whereby Fig. 2 of Bonforte shows an imaginary line bisecting the cutting edge to define two trapezoids, which are then joined together to form a double trapezoid. Presumably, the Examiner considers a simple overall trapezoidal contour to be a special case of a double trapezoid, the two trapezoidal angles of which are identical.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that the aforementioned special case of a double trapezoid is not provided by the definitions of Applicants' independent claims 1, 22, 23 and 24. In particular, these claims of the instant application require that the

double trapezoidal shape be formed by inner and outer edge portions that, in various combinations, merge with one another either in an angular, i.e. cornered, manner, or with a radius. Furthermore, the outer edges of the double trapezoid are also defined as merging in an angular manner or with a radius with the radial ends 10 of the blade section. As a consequence of this requirement of Applicants' claims of having the inner edges 20 merge with the radially outer edges 22 in an angular or rounded manner, it is clear and implicit that the edges of each blade section have a bent course (see, for example, page 4, lines 14 and 15, of the specification of the instant application). As a consequence, there is defined and formed a double trapezoidal shape having two different trapezoid angles. In this way, one obtains an approximately elliptical contour of the cutting blade. This effects an approximately uniform pattern of bending and twisting stresses during operation of the cutting blade.

In contradistinction to Applicants' cutting blade as defined in claims 1, 22, 23 and 24, with the Bonforte reference the radially extending edges of the cutting blade have a linear configuration; the trapezoidal contour of an individual blade section has a constant trapezoid angle, via which the aforementioned advantages cannot be achieved. It is respectfully submitted that Applicants' requirement that each blade section have a double trapezoidal shape is in no way taught or suggested by the Bonforte reference.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the allowability of all of the claims pending in the instant application. In addition, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much

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welcome a telephone call from him in order to discuss any outstanding issues and to expedite placement of the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert - Becker", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert W. Becker, Reg. No. 26,255
for applicant(s)

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